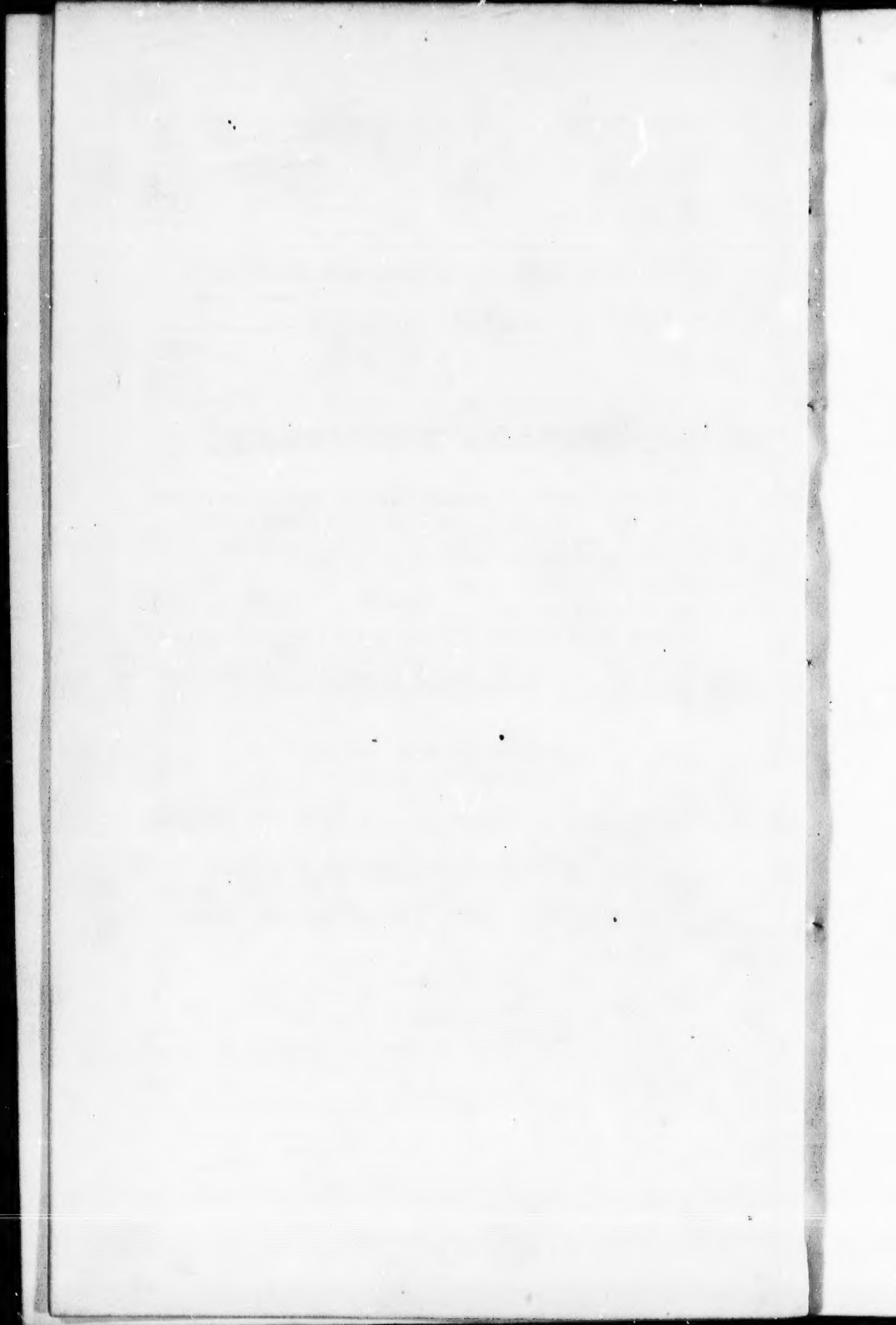




✓
A
GENERAL CIRCULAR
TO ALL
PERSONS OF GOOD CHARACTER,
WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE
TO THE
OREGON TERRITORY,
EMBRACING SOME ACCOUNT OF THE CHARACTER AND
ADVANTAGES OF THE COUNTRY; THE RIGHT
AND THE MEANS AND OPERATIONS BY
WHICH IT IS TO BE SETTLED;—
AND
ALL NECESSARY DIRECTIONS FOR BECOMING
AN EMIGRANT.

Hall J. Kelley, *General Agent.*

BY ORDER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENCOURAGING
the SETTLEMENT of the OREGON TERRITORY.
INSTITUTED IN BOSTON, A.D. 1829.

CHARLESTOWN:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM W. WHEILDON.
R. P. & C. WILLIAMS—BOSTON.

1831.

T. W.

No. 2

9/15/2008 11:18

F880
K31
2d copy
Office

OREGON SETTLEMENT,

*To be commenced in the Spring of 1832, on
the delightful and fertile banks of the
Columbia River.*

GENERAL REMARKS.

IT has been for many years in serious contemplation to settle with a free and enlightened, but redundant population from the American Republic, that portion of her territory called Oregon, bordering on the Pacific Ocean, and laying between the fortysecond and fortyninth parallels of N. latitude.

The AMERICAN SOCIETY, instituted at Boston, Mass. for this purpose, would hereby respectfully advise the friends of the settlement of that country, relative to its physical character,—its resources and advantages over all other uncultivated countries for the occupancy and prosperity of a civilized and active people; and present to them a general view of the plan of operations; and likewise the means, by which persons of good character may secure a participation in the enjoyments and blessings of the most pleasant and healthful part of the globe. The country is represented, by the concurrent testimony of those who have explored it, to be in general uneven; nevertheless, a large proportion of the territory within two hundred miles of the ocean is accounted feasible farming land, and extremely fertile, remarkably mild in climate, so much so, that the ice was never known to be entirely formed over the large bays and rivers; nor the frost in the severest days of the winter to stop the progress of vegetation on the bottom lands.

Mr Pilcher, in a recent communication made to Congress, through the Hon J. H. Eaton, Secretary of War, remarks that in 1829, he visited the

Columbia river, and "found the mildness of the seasons infinitely greater than in the corresponding latitudes and elevations in the valley of the Mississippi, or in the Atlantic States. The winters are less cold and the summers less hot. As a proof of this, may be mentioned, the state of the *grass*, which is green and juicy nearly all winter, affording excellent pasture for horses, on which those animals not only sustain themselves, but the poor and lean get in good order." The section of the country called by him, the middle regions or plains, he says "is remarkable for a mild climate, a clear sky, a serene atmosphere, and a soft and brilliant sunshine. The nights, when the moon is near full, and the hemisphere studded over with stars, are indescribably beautiful. The tide water region has a climate of its own. Ice or snow is seldom seen; the heats are never great: and winter is hardly a distinct season."

For a particular account of the natural geography of the country;—of its soil, climate, productions, aborigines, &c. the narrow limits of this work oblige a reference to a pamphlet,* published by Hall J. Kelley, A. M.

The project of opening the Oregon country to the overflowing inhabitants of the United States, is not *visionary*. Its votaries "are not mad, most noble Misanthrope, but speak forth the words of truth and soberness." It is full of *realities* and *interest* to every man; and humanity requires the truth to be fearlessly told. It gives the philanthropist full scope for the exercise of the best feelings of his heart. It furnishes him the work of patriotism, and active benevolence; and in the success of his labors, he may witness the melioration of the hard condition of thousands of his fellow citizens, and the prosperity and glory of his country.

* This pamphlet contains 80 pages, is furnished with a Map of Oregon country, and may be had of R. P. & C. Williams, Boston, and Dorr & Howland, Worcester, Mass.; or of G. C. & H. Carvill, city of New York.

RIGHT OF SETTLING.

THE title to the Oregon territory, and the exclusive right of occupancy, yet remains vested in the Aborigines. The benevolent work of enlightening and civilizing that rude and suffering people, is a prerogative of sovereignty, belonging to the nation which may have first discovered their wants, and possess the means of giving them the conveniences and comforts of refined society, and such concomitant benefits, as diversify and adorn human life.

It is evidently the intention of the God of Nature, that the white man and the Indian should have a common and mutual right to occupy the earth, to use its productions, and profit by the blessings of society; and that individuals, who mostly share in the favors of Providence, should be most "ready to communicate" of the good, to his neighbors. This common law of our nature, this common concern of mankind, is no less imperious, in its obligations, on nations than individuals.

These few pages do not admit of a discussion of this question; nor is it necessary since from an investigation of facts, on other occasions, it has been so clearly deduced, that the duty of protecting the rights, and of cherishing and sustaining the interests of the Oregon Indians, devolves on the American nation; and consequently in her is the right of sovereignty. The import of this word is sometimes misunderstood. It is mistaken for government or jurisdiction itself; whereas it is only a *right*, which one country has in preference to another, to establish a government, territorial, colonial or any other. It is a matter of deep regret that the U. States have not exercised this right of extending jurisdiction over the territory in question, and of putting up barriers against the extension of British jurisdiction.

The right claimed by our citizens to settle is identified among their many privileges, as social be-

ings, of doing acts, within the precincts of a rightful sovereignty, not repugnant to the principles of justice and equality, and the laws of the country. The establishment of a jurisdiction by the English, west of the Rocky Mountains being a nullity; and the United States having enacted no statute, for the benefit of the inhabitants of either color, in that country, there is no justly constituted jurisdiction. It, therefore, follows that settlers, in the pursuit of their proper and laudable business, violate no law or right of the government of the U. States.

RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY.

THE natural advantages of the Country, for trade and commerce, foreign, internal, and coastwise, are paramount to those found in other parts of America. The confluence of the many navigable rivers, opening into, and beautifying every section of the country, forms the grand river Columbia, whose gentle waters may be traversed by large vessels, two hundred miles from the sea; whose either bank affords inlets safe and commodious for harbors. Nature furnishes many clear indications that the mouth of this far spreading and noble river is soon to become the commercial part of that hemisphere, the great business place of nations, interchanging the commodities and productions of western America and the East Indies.

Much of the country within two hundred miles of the Ocean, is favorable to cultivation. The valley of the Multnomah is particularly so, being extremely fertile. The advantages, generally, for acquiring property are paramount to those on the prairies of the West, or in any other part of the world. In relation to this last point, the following fact evinces more than a hundred doubtful conjectures. The Oregon is covered with heavy forests of timber, and within the distance of a coasting trade, boards bring from 50 to 90 dollars per thou-

sand ; and such is the market, that no considerable *reductions* of these prices, can ever be reasonably expected. The production of vegetables, grain, and cattle, will require comparatively but little labor ; these articles, together with the spontaneous growth of the soil, and the fruits of laborious industry, in general, will find a market, *at home*, and thereby comfort and enrich the settlers. Surplus staple articles may be shipped from their doors to distant ports, and return a vast profit in trade. Lumber, ship timber, &c. may be sent to the western coast of South America, the islands in the Pacific ; bread stuffs, furs, salmon, and many articles of domestic manufactures, to the East Indies.

It is the circumstance of a *good home market*, that gives any country its greatest value, and must give the Oregon country *immense advantages* for settlement ; advantages unknown in the Western States, whose markets are as remote as the shores of the Atlantic. It is not the consideration of good land alone, that justifies the occupancy of a country distant from the sea-coast, for with its abundant productions, it *may yield* but few of the comforts and conveniences of life. For instance, a champaign country, with a clayey soil, causes an unhealthful atmosphere ; and in the proportion of its approximation to a vertical sun, yields sickness and death.

The want of value to the farmer's surplus produce, is his poverty ; and has made shipwreck of the fortunes of thousands, who have settled in Ohio, Indiana, &c. This remark is made under the influence of no motive, which does not regard alike the interest of every citizen of the Republic.

Incalculable are the advantages, which Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufactures in this country, will derive from the perennial resource of a trade with the Oregon Settlement. The staple commodities of the South, manufactured in the North, and then exchanged in the great market of the Oregon,

will better promote the three common interests of the States, than any system of imposts or revenue duties, which a wise and patriotic people can adopt. Commerce spreading more canvass—sailing into new and broader seas—visiting distant shores of inexhaustible wealth, will conduct home the full tide of a golden traffic.

NATIONAL ADVANTAGES.

IN the following memorial, offered at the present session, for the consideration of Congress, are some of the national advantages, which may accrue, from a permanent possession of Oregon.

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY, for encouraging the Settlement of the Oregon Territory, instituted in A. D. 1829, and incorporated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, actuated by a faithful regard to duty, have cheerfully engaged in the work of opening to a civilized and virtuous population, that part of Western America, called OREGON.

They are convinced, that if that country should be settled under the auspices of the Government of the United States of America, from such of her worthy sons, who have drank of the spirit of those civil and religious institutions, which constitute the living fountain, and the very perennial source of her national prosperity, great benefits must result to mankind. They believe, that there, the skilful and persevering hand of industry might be employed with unparalleled advantage; that there, Science and the Arts, the invaluable privileges of a free and liberal government, and the refinements and ordinances of Christianity, diffusing each its blessing, would harmoniously unite in meliorating the moral condition of the Indians, in promoting the comfort and happiness of the settlers, and in augmenting the wealth and power of the Republic.

The uniform testimony of an intelligent multitude have established the fact, that the country in question, is the most valuable of all the unoccupied parts of the earth. Its peculiar location and facilities, and physical resources for trade and commerce; its

contiguous markets; its salubrity of climate; its fertility of soil; its rich and abundant productions; its extensive forests of valuable timber; and its great water Channel diversifying, by its numerous branches the whole country, and spreading canals through every part of it, are sure indications that Providence has designed this last reach of enlightened emigration to be the residence of a people, whose singular advantages will give them unexampled power and prosperity.

These things have excited the admiration of every observer, and have settled in the policy of the British nation the determined purpose of possessing and enjoying them, as their own; and have induced their Parliament to confer on the Hudson's Bay Company, chartered privileges for occupying with their settlements the fertile banks of the Columbia; which settlements have been made; and are flourishing, in rapid growth, under the culture secured by the provisions of a Colonial Government.

The Society conceive it clearly deduced, from all the facts in the case, that the right of sovereignty over the Oregon Territory, is invested in the government of the United States of America, consequently, in her is the exclusive right of colonizing that country, and of introducing into it the various business and benefits of civilized life.

The expense and labor necessary to the accomplishment of this work, planned by Providence, made easy by nature, and urged and encouraged by the persuasive motives of philanthropy, are, in no degree, commensurate with the national blessings to be derived from it; among which are enumerated the following; viz:

The moral condition of the *Aborigines*, if blessed by the influences of a refined and religious community, will be improved. The attempt to enlighten the minds and to dignify the nature of this unfortunate race, may no longer be defeated by injudicious plans.

Their unjust and unequal alliances with *another nation* may be broken, and their friendship secured to *this*.

By means, thus honorable, that valuable territory would be held from the possession of an unfriendly power.

Ports of Entry, and Ship and Navy Yards, might be established with great advantage, on the waters of Oregon, and thereby, the trade and commerce of both the Pacific and Atlantic

Oceans would become extended and enriched. Capitalists and Mariners might pursue, with more profit and safety, the whale and other fisheries in the Western Seas, and the salmon trade on the Columbia.

A portion of the virtuous and enterprising, but not least faithful population, whom misfortunes have thrown out of employment, and who throng our villages and sea-ports, and seek a better home, might there find opportunities, under the paternal kindness of the government, to succeed to a happier condition, and to greater usefulness to themselves and to their country.

These are objects so obvious, so vast and valuable, as need not be urged by your memorialists, and seem necessarily embraced within the scope of a wise policy. They are yet deemed practicable. Another season—their possession will be thought expedient—but not so easily wrested from the grasp of British power.

The Society view with alarm the progress, which the subjects of that nation have made, in the colonization of the Oregon Territory. Already, have they, flourishing towns, strong fortifications, and cultivated farms. The domicile is made the abode of domestic comforts—the social circle is enlivened by the busy wife and the prattle and sport of children. In the convention of 1818, England secured for her subjects, the privilege of a free trade, that of buying furs of the Indians; but, at first, they practised trapping and hunting; now, they practice buying and improving lands, and assiduously pursue the business of the farmer and mechanic. Their largest town is Vancouver, which is situated on a beautiful plain, in the region of tide water, on the northern bank of the Columbia. At this place, saw and grist mills are in operation. Three vessels have been built, one of about 300 tons, and are employed in the lumber trade. Numerous herds and flocks of horses, horned cattle, and sheep, of the best European breeds, are seen grazing in their ever verdant fields. Grain of all kinds, in abundant crops, are the productions of the soil.

Everything, either in the organization of the government, or in the busy and various operations of the settlements, at this place, at Wallawalla, at Fort Colville, and at De Fuca, indicate the intentions of the English to colonize the country.—Now, therefore, your memorialists, in behalf of a large number of the citizens of the United States, would respectfully ask

Congress to aid them in carrying into operation the great purposes of their institution—to grant them troops, artillery, military arms, and munitions of war, for the defence and security of the contemplated settlement—to incorporate their Society with power to extinguish the Indian title, to such tracts and extent of territory, at the mouth of the Columbia, and at the junction of the Multnomah with the Columbia, as may be adequate to the laudable objects and pursuits of the settlers; and with such other powers, rights and immunities, as may be, at least, equal and concurrent to those given by Parliament to the Hudson's Bay Company; and such as are not repugnant to the stipulations of the Convention, made between Great Britain and the United States, wherein it was agreed, that any country on the Northwest Coast of America, to the westward of the Rocky Mountains, should be free and open to the citizens and subjects of the two powers, for a term of years; and to grant them such other rights and privileges, as may contribute to the means of establishing a respectable and prosperous community.

Your memorialists are pledged to one another, to their children, to their friends, and to mankind, to sustain by all just and possible means, the interests of their country; and to co-operate in advancing its prosperity. They love their native land, and will ever continue its devoted friends; and most grateful and gladdening would it be, to receive for the settlement, the protection and fostering care of Congress.

SURVEY AND DIVISION OF LANDS.

As soon as the Settlement has consummated their title to Indian lands, measures will be adopted for building on Gray's Bay, and at the mouth of the Multnomah river, commercial towns, where it is believed, vessels from every sea, will come to trade, repair, and take outfits.

This Bay opens into the northern bank of the Columbia, about 11 miles from its mouth. It furnishes deeper soundings, better shelter, and generally, greater advantages for a harbor, than any other opening on the river. Five miles square of territory at this place, will be laid out into the neces-

sary configuration and divisions for a seaport town.

Of the streets, * one, 200 feet wide, will run from the water, in a N. W. direction, bisecting at the distance of six squares, an area of ten acres of parade or pleasure ground, which area is forever to remain open and unoccupied with buildings. The centre of this street, for the width of 100 feet, will be devoted to the purposes of a market. Streets crossing this, at right angles, are intended to be 100 feet wide; those parallel to it, 50 feet. The squares are to be 400 feet on a side, each including 18 lots, 50 by 100 feet each. From the 100 ft. streets and the public lands, no plant or tree is to be removed or destroyed without consent of the municipal authority.

The valley of the Multnomah will be occupied for agricultural and manufacturing operations, where likewise, two miles square will be appropriated for a trading town. This rich tract of territory is situated about eightyfive miles up the Columbia river. In this delightful region will be introduced all the business of science and art.

The commercial town, at the junction of the Multnomah and Columbia rivers, will be about two miles square. A section of the land adjoining the town, will be surveyed into lots, 40 by 160 rods, of 40 acres each; making the number of these divisions equal to the whole number of emigrants, over 14 years of age, not including married women.—Next to these, will be other lots of 160 acres each, making up the compliment of 200 acres to each emigrant. Lands for *public uses*, and to meet the demands of the *stock*, will be included in this last division. Roads, as far as practicable, will be laid out in right lines, intersecting each other at right angles.

In the Oregon, it is proposed, that all geographical surveys and divisions of farming lands be made by the method, which, two years ago, was suggested to Congress—examined, approved of, and re-

*See Maps, at the end of this Pamphlet.

commended by Gen Bernard, then at the head of the corps of Civil Engineers. This method is not publicly known or practiced; but has many advantages over that in common use. It is more easily performed; numerous errors of the compass are avoided; the interests of the land proprietor better promoted, and the wide door for litigation, which often costs him his freehold, effectually closed.

All boundaries of towns, and lots of land, will be identified with meridian lines, and parallels of latitude,—not by the parallels as found on the surface of the earth, where they are as crooked, as the hills and depressions make them uneven; but by such, as they would be, provided the surface was smooth. It is confidently believed, that this is the only simple method, by which westerly or easterly lines can be run with accuracy, and that it is attended with as much certainty as the high operations of trigonometrical surveys.

It is, however, true, that the divisions of land, as they lay south of each other, increase in quantity, in proportion to the divergency of the meridian lines; nevertheless, their boundaries will be distinctly marked, and their contents exactly known. A country thus surveyed, gives the advantage of ascertaining, without admeasurement, the relative position or distance of any one place from another, consequently the latitude and longitude of the metropolis being determined, those of any other place are known.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

THE Oregon Territory lies beyond the civil jurisdiction of the U. S. A. It becomes, therefore, a matter of great moment, that the settlers take with them some form of government, provided, either by Congress or some other competent body. Fatal to their happiness would it be, for them to go without the means of subjecting the corrupt principles of do-

praved natures. Laws made efficient, by the highest virtues and energies of the people, are necessary to the encouragement of virtue, the punishment of vice, the enjoyment of life and liberty, the acquisition of property and security of comfort and safety; as likewise, to the suppression of the restless spirits of aspiring and unprincipled demagogues, who infest every political society, have ever aimed at civil commotion and usurpation, and have ever been ready to make the fairest spot of earth, the theatre of their lawless ambition.

Whatever may be the *frame* of government, it should be built upon the most finished improvements of others. Whether the settlers are to be considered children of mature age, made free, and setting up for themselves, constituting, in some degree, an independent Province, the friend and ally of the mother country; sharing in her generous and maternal solicitude; or whether they are to be a Colony, planted, cherished and protected by her, depends entirely on Congress. That the latter should be the case, is the prayer of a memorial, at the present time, before that august assemblage of talents, virtue and wisdom.

Should the emigrants fail of that *Charter*, which reason and justice dictate, and humanity calls for, they will attempt to make for themselves, just and equal laws, under the provisions of a form of government, so far made a free democratic representative, as will be consistent with an unequivocal recognition of the sovereignty of the American Republic. It will be in most respects, a transcript of the government of Michigan Territory. The Governor, Secretary, Treasurer and Board of Land Commissioners, being the appointments of the Society. It will continue two years, unless Congress, before the expiration of this time, prescribes a substitute.

The emigrant citizens will leave the land of their fathers, under no circumstances of oppression, and

with no feelings of discontent, resolved still to cultivate only the fields of civil and religious freedom, where life is made the most easy and felicitous, and civilized man attains his greatest power, and his most dignified superiority over the man in ignorance or in vassalage; still animated by the holy and unextinguishable fire, kindled with that of the best lovers of American Independence, they must, they *will continue free.*

RELIGION.

THE Religion of the Settlement, it is hoped, will be the religion of conscience, and the King of heaven. No people can long continue free and happy, without acknowledging, with pious reverence and obedience, the laws of Jehovah, giving full toleration to all communities of his conscientious worshippers, however various their forms; and feeling due respect for him, who administers at the sacred altar, "and is accounted a worker together with God, in labors that succeed unto eternal life."

The settlers will lose none of their religious privileges and comforts. Churches of different denominations will be organized before emigration, who will take with them, respectively, their Pastors.

There will be given, in Oregon, encouragement for pious and well educated young men, who regard the interests of others as their own, to engage in the great work of imparting moral and religious instruction to the Indians.

EDUCATION.

THE education of youth being the safeguard of a free government, and the basis of its most valuable blessings, becomes of transcendant importance. In order, then, to diffuse elementary and scientific instruction, both among the children of the settlers and of the Indian tribes, some efficient and appropriate system of education will be adopted; and

whatever will best civilize the manners, reform the morals, enlighten the mind, and free it from the grasp of superstition, will be parts of this system.

Schools of every grade will be opened, as soon as the settlement is effected, and temporary buildings provided. Agricultural and classical institutions, and colleges succeeding common and primary schools are deemed practical systems of education. These will be established; and in them, *red*, as well as *white* children will be taught the rudiments of learning, the sciences, farming industry, and that knowledge of men and things, which at once enlighten and dignify the mind. Persons of good education will find many inducements to emigrate; some "apt to teach," to share in the business of instruction; others, versed in law and polity and acquainted with the principles of legislation, to sustain offices in the administration of government.

EMIGRANTS.

THE ultimate success of the settlement depends on the virtuous qualities of its members. If its elementary principles are defective, the result of its operations will be uncertain, and productive of but little good, if not entirely abortive. The settlement ought not, therefore, to be made the receptacle of vicious characters,—or drones too indolent to pursue any honest or useful occupation,—of cunning persons possessing talents without virtuous principles,—of idle dreamers of power and riches, who, faithless to good order, are often ready to sap the foundation of morality and religion; these are all a burden and a curse to society. Men of steady habits, virtuous intentions, endeavoring to cultivate practical knowledge and honest industry, will be deemed worthy of the enterprise; and such persons may, in Oregon, secure to themselves a pleasant home and competency of good things; subserve individual happiness, and sustain the great objects of founding the settlement. Before embark-

ation it will be required of all proposing to emigrate, to satisfy the society by certificates or otherwise, of good moral character and industrious habits.

Emigrants, who go to the Oregon country in the manner, and under the encouragements annunciated in this pamphlet, each to receive, gratuitously, most of the expenses of emigration and a landed estate, valued from \$2000 to 10,000 dollars, situated, where the healthfulness of climate, the good market for every product of earth or of labor, and the enjoyment of a free and liberal government will conspire to make life easy.

Poor children, and children of *charity institutions* can be admitted. These, with the means of moderate labor, may find a good living, and an honorable retreat from disgrace and suffering.

Each emigrant, over fourteen years of age, not including married women; and each child that is an orphan, or without a parent in *that* country, will receive a lot of sea-port land, containing 5000 square feet, or two farming lots in the valley of the Multnomah, containing respectively, 40 acres and 160 acres. These lands, excepting what the English settlers have under cultivation, are covered with a heavy growth of valuable timber, and will be drawn by settlers, individually, as soon as surveyed.

The Society contemplate opening that country only to enlightened emigrations, and they are actuated by no other motives, than those of philanthropy and patriotism. They own no *landed estates* in Oregon; and expect no interest thence, that may not be common to any American citizen, who will associate with them.

It is not their desire to urge the enlistment of any person, however his condition may be improved by it; and far be it from them to deceive in their representations. The enterprise is replete with motives for emigrations. It is desirable, however,

to increase the proportion of those enlisting, in whose characters are combined science, skill and integrity, to sustain offices in the government.

Enlistments should be made of properly educated persons, to fill the civil, military and literary rolls—of Clergymen and Physicians—of persons possessing a scientific knowledge of the different branches of mathematics and natural philosophy, to constitute corps on engineering, surveying, astronomy, geology and botany—of farmers—of the following mechanics, viz. master shipbuilders, millwrights, wheelwrights, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinmen, tanners, curriers, shoemakers, tailors, hatters, &c.; of capitalists, taking with them vessels suitable for the lumber trade, and whale and salmon fisheries, both of which pursuits are, and for many years will continue, vastly profitable; of capitalists, who will carry out the iron parts of grist-mills, sawmills, of nail-making machinery, &c. who will establish a paper mill, a printing press, a manufactory of window glass, and a foundry of iron ware.

Each emigrant, who is entitled to receive gratuitously, a lot of land, is required to advance a pledge of 20 dollars, that he or she will make the emigration, without disappointment to the society. On payment of the pledge, the following certificate will be given. They may be obtained, together with this pamphlet, of any of the Agents named at the end of this pamphlet.

NO.

This Certifies that

L. S. has paid Twenty Dollars to the American Society for encouraging the settlement of the Oregon Territory, as a pledge for the faithful performance of obligations to be stipulated and defined by Covenant between him and the said Society.

President.

Secretary.

N. B. The following are the principal conditions and stipula-

tions of the Covenant, viz: that the emigrant shall give oath or affirmation to obey and support all just and equal laws and regulations made and provided for the settlement by the Society, the same being not repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America.

That all the common and public property and revenues of the settlement shall be held liable to the payment of all debts that may be incurred on account of said settlement; and that, in all other respects, he shall truly and faithfully demean himself a peaceable and worthy member of the Oregon community.

That the Society shall defray all expenses of the first expedition from St. Louis, excepting arms, knapsacks, clothing and blankets, which are to be supplied by the emigrants respectively.

That the Society allow to each emigrant, agreeable to the terms of their first Circular, a lot of seaport land, or 200 acres of farming land, *provided* he or his assigns continues to occupy it, two years from the time of receiving said lot; the Society will guarantee his or her right to a free enjoyment of religious and civil freedom, and an equal participation in all the privileges and immunities of a member of the Oregon settlement.

It is proper, under this head, to notice the objections, which unreflecting and self-interested men oppose to the enterprise. Say they, there are extensive tracts of wild lands, this side of the Rocky Mountains. The Indians are hostile and will tomahawk the Settlers. Hardships and privations will attend every step of the expedition, and be made the suffering lot of young and old, through the first generation. These objections are futile—they are delusive, and are calculated to perpetuate the wants and hard fortune of many, who might secure to themselves and posterity, permanent blessings, in a healthful and productive country.

The first objection is answered, under the head of general remarks. Let those occupy the vacant lands of the West, and take remedies for the fever and ague, who will. Let the reflecting and provident man choose the country where something more than fertile soil is found. The means of securing health and property, and generally, the comforts of life, will determine *his* choice.

The other objections are likewise delusive, and are made, without any knowledge of the mild and

friendly disposition of the Oregon Indian—of the resources of that country; or of the facilities and ease by which the expeditions may be effected.

The Agent of the Society has given these subjects many years of patient investigation, and does not hesitate to avow a greater confidence in the faith and friendship of those *red men*, than of the *white savages*, who infest our communities; and he rejoices at the brightening prospects of joining, with his tender wife and children, the expedition, and of settling for life, in the Oregon territory.

True it is, that direful calamities may attend the march of the emigrants, or the most awful visitations of Providence await the settlement. Its villages may be rocked into ruins by exploding earthquakes, or buried in lava by flooding volcanos.

The strong and massy pillars of the beautiful temple of American liberty may be thrown down, the infuriated frenzy of a deluded people may here spread the desolations of civil war. Freedom may be exiled, and her few faithful votaries enrolled on bills of mortality. These fearful days may come and have passed away, before the inhabitants of Oregon experience the misfortunes of a bad country, the hand of savage cruelties, or the retributions of an offended God.

INDIANS.

THE first ninety miles of the banks of the Columbia river are occupied by eight independent tribes of Indians, numbering about 8000 souls; these include about 1000 male adults, who are truer in the excellence of moral integrity—are more hospitable to strangers and less disposed to quarrel than those on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. They are fond of the society of white men, and will long continue to appreciate, and promptly to reciprocate honest and fair dealing. Nothing is more remote from the intentions of the Society than to oppress

them, or to occupy their lands without making ample and satisfactory remunerations. So far from this, it is desired, that each head of a family receive a lot of land. That the Chinook tribe be located on the back lots, in the sea port town, where they can be instructed, and encouraged in cultivating garden grounds, and where schools can be opened for their children &c.

ROUTE.

THE emigrants will be embodied at St Louis, and under conductors best acquainted with the country. They will lay their route, westerly, to the Great Platte, up that river to its source; making the transit of the Mountains through a low depression, probably to the waters of the Multnomah, and down that river to the place of destination.

Under this head, it is only necessary to add a few remarks from the testimonials of Messrs Smith, Jackson and Sublette, and Mr Pilcher, given to Congress, last winter. These first gentlemen observe that "on the 10th of April 1830, a caravan of ten wagons, drawn by five mules each, and two dearborns, drawn by one mule each, set out from St Louis. We have eighty one men in company, all mounted on mules. Our route was nearly due west to the western limits of the state; and thence along the Santa Fee trail about forty miles; from which the course was some degress north of west, across the waters of the Kansas, and up the Great Platte, to the Rocky Mountains, and to the head of Wind river, where it issues from the mountains. Here the wagons could have easily crossed the mountains, it being what is called the *Southern Pass*, had it been desirable. For our support, at leaving the Missouri settlements, until we should get into the buffalo country, we drove twelve head of cattle, besides a milch cow. Eight of these only, being required for use before we got to the buf-

faloes, the others went on the Platte, about three hundred and fifty miles from the white settlements, and from that time lived on buffaloes, the quantity being infinitely beyond what we needed."

Mr Pilcher remarks that the most erroneous ideas prevail on the practicability of crossing the Rocky Mountains. "I have been," says he, "familiar with these mountains, for three years, and have crossed them often, and at various points between the latitude 42 and 54. I have, therefore, the means to know something about them, and a right to oppose my knowledge to the suppositions of strangers. I say, then, that nothing is more easily passed than these mountains. Wagons and carriages may cross them in a state of nature without difficulty, and with little delay in the day's journey. Some parts are very high; but the gradual rise of the country in the vast slope from the Mississippi to the foot of the mountains, makes a considerable elevation without perceptible increase, and then the gaps or depressions let you through almost upon a level. This is particularly the case opposite the head of the Platte, where I crossed in 1827.—I have crossed here often, and always without delay or difficulty."

Having reached the navigable waters of the Columbia, boats will be constructed to complete the emigration.

EXPEDITION.

INDUCED to believe that the Government of the United States, in prospect of the national benefits which must, inevitably accrue from the settlement, will sustain a part or the whole at the expense of the enterprise, the Society have deferred the departure of the expedition till the last of March next; and they await with no ordinary solicitude, such measures as the wisdom of Congress may adopt on their Memorial. The emigrants, resolving to remain citizens, and to engage in no unlawful

pursuits in Oregon—giving great value to its fertile tracts, and otherwise promoting the interest of the Republic, have a rightful claim on her for protection; but it will not concern the settlers, whence comes protection, or the means of accomplishing the objects of the enterprise, whether from Congress or private munificence.

Emigrants are required to defray their own expenses to St. Louis; and after that, to provide with all necessary arms, knapsacks, blankets, and private carriages. Females and children must be provided, at the time of starting, with covered horse wagons, containing each a bed and two or more blankets. From St. Louis they will be subject to no other expense than the above named, and in Oregon, will receive gratuitously, a landed estate of great value.

Orders will be given in due time for assembling in Portland, Me; Portsmouth, and Concord, N. H.; Boston, Worcester, and Springfield, Mass.; Bennington, Vt.; Albany, Buffalo, Detroit and N. York, N. Y.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Baltimore, Md.; Washington City, &c. All persons are requested to continue their accustomed business till said orders. At these, and other places, companies will be formed; Captains being appointed to the command of every fifty male adult persons, the emigration will then commence, by the most practicable routes to the aforesaid place of general rendezvous. It is left optional with the emigrants to choose their own way of going to this place. The cost, from Boston, to an individual grown person, who joins a company will, probably, not exceed fifteen dollars.

No person has yet been selected to fill any office, in the civil department; nor will any, till after the general orders for assembling, when elections will be made, entirely on the ground of personal merit. No person will be deemed eligible to an office in the government; or in the military, to a captaincy or a

higher rank, who has not received a good common education, is not proprietor of one or more shares in the *stock*, and does not give oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the U. S. and the constituted government of the Oregon settlement. Suitable and pious chaplains will accompany the expedition.

The government of the expedition, from St Louis, will be military, deprived however, of much of its asperity and arbitrary discipline, by the mild reform, which virtue, refinement and female presence conspire to produce.

At this place the business of organization will be completed. The covenants, referred to in the certificate will be executed. Baggage wagons loaded with provisions, and tents including fly tents, each of which will be sufficiently large to spread over six small wagons, and camp furniture will be provided. A drove of cattle will be purchased and taken along, for occasional supply.

No private property, other than wearing apparel, military equipments, and provisions can be admitted into the public baggage wagons. Merchandize, machinery, property and effects of any kind can be transported on a reasonable freight, in vessels, which will be provided for this purpose. Notice will be given when and where store houses will be opened for the reception of the above articles.

FUNDS.

Two hundred thousand dollars stock, and certificate money (see p. 18) and all such donations, contributions and subscriptions, as benevolent and public spirited individuals may make, will constitute the funds of the Society. The following is an extract of a report made by a committee, charged with the subject of devising and reporting the most effectual means of carrying into operation the great purposes of the Society:

"They have attentively investigated the objects

of the enterprize; and among the first results of their enquiry is a clear conviction, that the time is near at hand, and advancing in the ordinary course of Providence, when the Oregon Country shall be occupied by an enlightened people, skilled in the various improvements of science and art. A people, thus enlightened and skilled, and enjoying the advantages of a climate, soil and markets, as good in their kind, as the earth affords; and other natural means, which mostly contribute to the comfort and conveniences of life—energized and blessed by the mild and vital principles of the American Republic, and the sacred ordinances of the Christian Religion, must be prosperous and happy.

A settlement, carrying on a trade and commerce commensurate with the wants of that population composing the nations on the islands, and on the borders of the great Western Ocean; and maintaining a friendly intercourse with them, must advance in a degree of prosperity, unexampled in the history of nations. From the plenitude of its *own resources*, it will soon be enabled to sustain its *own operations*, and will hasten on in its own majesty, to a proud rank on the earth. Then will it richly reward the kindness, that helped it into existence. With these views, your Committee would suggest the following plan of stock, and means of operations—viz:

Let a portion of the funds of the society constitute a capital stock of *Two Hundred Thousand Dollars*, to be divided into shares of \$100 each, and to be raised by loans. Each share entitling the proprietor thereof, to 160 acres of land, as set forth in the certificate of stock,—the lots are to be numbered and determined according to the rules and plan of division expressed in the By-Laws of the Society. This stock shall be secured on the pledge of all the public and common property and revenues of the settlement—the emigrants covenanting

with the Society before embarkation, that all debts incurred directly or indirectly, for the benefit of the settlement, to the full amount of said stock, shall be paid in the manner aforesaid.

Your Committee would also suggest the propriety of raising funds by donations and subscriptions, to meet specific purposes in the Oregon Country. Let one be called the *Education or Indian Fund*; and another called the *Religious Fund*.

[*Form of caption to the above Funds.*]

THE RELIGIOUS FUND.

Voted—By the American Society for encouraging the settlement of the Oregon Territory, that all monies or property given to the Religious Fund, shall be held in trust by the Society, and for such specific objects, as shall meet the views or intentions of the donors or subscribers—to be delivered to any person or persons, whom a majority of the emigrants of their religious order may select.

THE EDUCATION AND INDIAN FUND.

Voted—By the American Society for encouraging the settlement of the Oregon Territory, to solicit from munificent individuals of the public, funds for the purposes of building school houses, and educating Indian children, in the Oregon Settlement.'

It is believed that little or no stock in the American market, is based on better security; and none, that offers to capitalists an opportunity for more profitable investments. Its par value cannot be depreciated by the contingency of ill success of the enterprise; for, in that possible event, every dollar of the stock will be refunded, the same being on hand either in money, or in public property. There are, at present, no salaries paid to its officers by

the Society, and but few expenses occurring to consume any part of its funds; nor will they occur in any considerable amount till the commencement of the *expedition*, which will remove the possibility of a failure. It will be noticed, that each emigrant, at the time of or before leaving St Louis will, personally, enter into a special covenant with the Society, making liable for the payment of this *stock* all *common property* and *revenues* of the settlement; and it will be further noticed that the proprietor of each share may take, in lieu of the money covering the principal and interest of the share, 160 acres of land, valued from 500 to 5000 dollars per lot—subject to no taxes till the expiration of five years—land which may be owned by any citizen of the United States, resident in any country, and may be sold or occupied by his children at a future period, when possibly, the same shall be situated in the midst of a dense population. It is desirable that emigrants, as far as they have the means, should be the owners of stock.

To Editors of Newspapers.

As the enterprise set forth in this pamphlet tends, in a great degree, to promote individual happiness and the common interests and prosperity of our country, it is believed, that every patriotic Editor of a public Journal, will cooperate with the Society by giving publicity to these pages. It is requested, as a favor, that they should either publish the *pamphlet* in articles, if they please, or refer the public to the places, where it may be obtained.

The Manual is sold to meet the expence of printing it; and any person, who receiving it, and having the means to contribute to the great and benevolent enterprise, transmits to the Treasurer or General Agent of the Society one or more dollars, or any article of useful property, will have his name recorded in the catalogue of patrons, and his memory embalmed in the grateful remembrance of posterity.

 All communications made through the post office must be post paid.

AGENTS.

This Manual may be had at the following places.

HORATIO HILL, & Co. Concord, N. H.

R. P. & C. WILLIAMS, No 19 & 20 Cornhill, Boston.

WM. W. WHEILDON, Aurora Office, Charlestown, Mass.

DORR & HOWLAND, Worcester, Mass.

SAMUEL BILLINGS, Lowell, do.

CALENDER & KIRKHAM, Springfield, do.

R. ELWELL, No 80 Wall Street, New York City.

D. SMITH, Detroit, N. Y.

CARY & HART, Chesnut Street, Philadelphia, Penn.

J. JEWETT, No 229 Market Street, Baltimore, Md.

J. RIORDAN, Washington City, D. C.

Price 12 1-2 cents each; \$1 for 10 copies. Orders through the mail, if postage is paid, will be promptly answered.

At either of the above places, a geographical description of the Oregon Territory may be had in a pamphlet of 80 pages, price 33 cents.

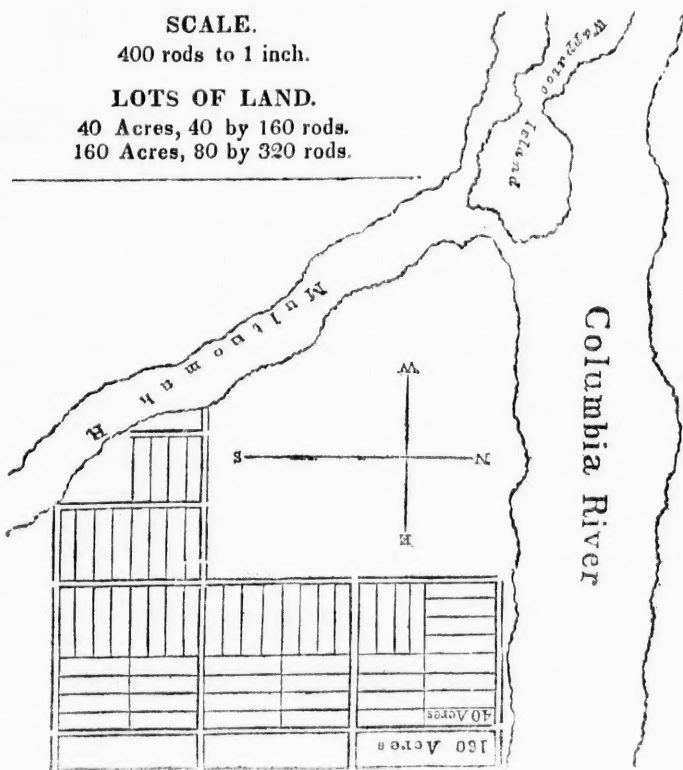
SCALE.

400 rods to 1 inch.

LOTS OF LAND.

40 Acres, 40 by 160 rods.

160 Acres, 80 by 320 rods.



MANUAL
OF THE
OREGON EXPEDITION.

PRICE 12 1-2 CENTS.

1831

AGENTS

Of whom Certificates may be obtained.

S. COLEMAN, Portland, Me.
J. SHAW, P. M. Northport, Me.
G. C. WORTH, Burlington, Vt.
J. McNAB, M. D. Barret, Vt.
H. BREWSTER, Ed. State Herald, Portsmouth, N. H.
J. NYE, P. M. Claremont, do.
J. W. RAND, New Hampton, do.
H. J. KELLEY, Gen. Agent, Boston, Mass.
W. W. WHEILDON, Ed. Bunker Hill Aurora, Charlestown, do.
WM. YOUNG, Taunton, do.
N. WYETH, Cambridge, do.
CALLENDER and KIRKHAM, Springfield, do.
DORR and HOWLAND, Worcester, do.
Providence, R. I.
LEWIS G. CLARK, Ed. Conn. Mirror, Hartford, Conn.
Rev E. CUSHMAN, New Haven, do.
Rev B. T. WELCH, Albany, N. Y.
A. McCALL, Lansingburgh, do.
A. PALMER, Ed. Schenectady Whig, do.
E. W. COLLINS, Rochester, do.
J. WHITE, P. M. Burditt, do.
A. WARREN, Lyons, do.
R. ELWELL, No 80, Wall street, New York City,
W. C. JONES, Columbus, Ohio
N. G. M. SENTER, Dayton, do.
B. WILLIS, Hillsboro, Illinois.
L. DUNLAP, Indianapolis, Ia.
C. D. SMITH, Detroit, Michigan Territory.
D. R. BURBANK, Henderson, Ky.
T. J. BRADFORD, Ed. Ky. Gazette, do.
GEO. ROHTLE, Newark, N. J.
Rev J. R. DODGE, No. 80, Vine street, Philadelphia City.
J. JEWETT, No 229, Market street, Baltimore City.
J. RIORDAN, Washinton City, D. C.
C. C. DUNN, M D Abington, Va.
R. B. SENECEUM, Somerville, Tenn.
ASA HARTFIELD, Augusta, Miss.
J. M. BRADFORD, St. Francisville, La.

ed.

n, do.